

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

In the preferred embodiment, a recess is located in the center of the threaded portion **20** of ~~the stud **18**~~~~tubular body **5**~~ of a size suitable to accept the end of wire rope **7**. Wire rope **7** is inserted first through the center aperture of collar **24**, which preferably includes a hex-shaped shoulder **25** on the outer surface of the internally threaded end, thus allowing the collar to be engaged and tightened onto the threaded portion **20** of stud **18**. After the wire rope is passed through the collar **24**, it is inserted through a center aperture **21** of tapered gripping wedge **22**, which is preferably made from aluminum, brass, copper or stainless, all sufficiently formable to allow compression onto the wire rope **7** during assembly and tightening. To ensure a tight fit and maximum friction after assembly of the gripping wedge **22** on the wire rope **7**, a groove or slot **23** of suitable width is provided over the full length of the gripping wedge **22** allowing the wedge to compress onto the wire rope when the stud **18** is screwed to the collar **24**, forcing the wedge into the tapered internal recess of collar **24**. To improve the friction generated by the compressed gripping wedge **22** on the wire rope **7**, the inner surface of the tapered gripping wedge can optionally include features such as threads or serrations.